



Acetaminophen & Codeine: After Your Visit

Common brands: Tylenol® with Codeine, Tylenol® #3, Tylenol® #4

What it's used for

Acetaminophen with codeine is used to treat pain. Codeine is an opioid, which means that it works like morphine.

What to tell the doctor or pharmacist before you take this medicine

Tell the doctor or pharmacist if you:

- have kidney or liver disease
- are allergic to acetaminophen or codeine
- drink alcohol
- are being treated for TB (tuberculosis)
- take a blood “thinner”
- have breathing problems (asthma, COPD)
- are pregnant

Tell your doctor or dentist what other prescription, over-the-counter, or herbal medicine you take.

What you need to know

- Take this product as directed. Taking more than 4000 mg of acetaminophen a day can hurt the liver.
- Acetaminophen is found in pain, fever, cough, and cold medicine. Make sure you read the label before you take any other medicine.
- It works best if you take it when the pain starts or before it gets too bad.
- Drinking alcohol while taking this medicine can hurt the liver.
- Codeine can cause constipation. Eating more fibre and drinking more fluids can help prevent it.
- Don't take more than prescribed or longer than prescribed, as this medicine can cause withdrawal symptoms (e.g., feeling restless, sweating) if used for a long time or in high doses.
- Don't drive or use machinery until you know how the medicine affects you.

Possible side effects

Possible side effects can include:

- constipation
- feeling sleepy
- stomach pain
- feeling dizzy or light headed
- upset stomach/throwing up

When to get help

Call **9-1-1** if you have trouble breathing or your face, tongue, or throat starts to swell.

See a doctor or phone Health Link right away for any of the below:

- trouble breathing
- feel sick to your stomach or are throwing up
- urine becomes dark
- sores in your mouth, nose, throat, or eyes
- eyes or skin turn yellow
- very bad pain in your abdomen/stomach
- feel very dizzy or very tired
- a red, itchy rash, or swelling
- trouble emptying your bladder

See your doctor if your symptoms or health problems don't get better or get worse.

If you have any questions or concerns about this medicine, speak with your doctor or pharmacist.

If you think you may have taken too much of this medicine, call the poison control centre PADIS 24/7 at 1-800-332-1414 or go to an emergency department.

To learn more about Acetaminophen & Codeine: After Your Visit, go to myhealth.alberta.ca and enter **fdb6352** in the search box.

For 24/7 nurse advice and general health information call Health Link at 8-1-1.

This content may be updated without notice.

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